

REMARKS

The Applicant has corrected the deficiencies noted in the Specification of the above entitled application.

The Examiner rejected claims 17-27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. The Examiner has requested the Applicant to identify structure that corresponds to the various plating means. The various means are all covered by the same plating structure described in detail in the Specification of the above entitled application. By way of example, Table 1 discloses various platings to secure or cover different types of protrusions. The Applicant has corrected the antecedent issue in claims 17-27. The Applicant submits claims 17-27 comply with the first and second paragraphs of §112.

The Examiner rejected claims 17, and 20-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Braunheim. The Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Braunheim. The Applicant submits that Braunheim neither anticipates nor renders obvious the claims of the above entitled application. Braunheim actually teaches away from the recited claims.

The Summary section of Braunheim discusses two techniques for improving the swage mounting of a hub and a flange. One technique includes increasing a surface hardness. The other technique utilizes surface protrusions. Although Braunheim makes a passing reference to plating, it does so in the context of the surface hardening technique. Col. 17, lines 23-28, state relevant part:

"In addition various other methods can be employed which only result in surface hardening without necessarily creating surface protrusions. Such methods include, for example, plating with a harder material, laser surface hardening, flame hardening and induction heating."

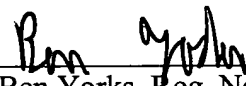
Braunheim clearly states that a plating method will result in surface hardening to the exclusion of surface protrusions. Braunheim neither disclosed nor contemplated plating over protrusions. Braunheim neither discloses or suggests to plate a hub that has protrusions as recited in the claims. Consequently, Braunheim neither anticipates nor renders obvious claim 1-11, and 17-27 of the above entitled application.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the objections and rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-11 and 17-27 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the U.S. Mail, First Class, addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450, on June 12, 2006.

Susan Langworthy

Date